Fully blown Aids oases by Madras Medical College Mains

237. SHRI SHIV PRATAP MISHRA; WiU the Minister of HEALTH! AND FAMILY WELFARE be plea-sed to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the ICMR, AIDS surveillance Centre, Madras Medical College, Madras Jw recovered a full blown AIDS; case cnce in eight days; and

(b) if so, what are the details thereof;

(c) whether it is also a fact that most of these people belong to the lower middle classes and from the rural areas; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and what preventive measures Govern ment propose to take in the matter?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI B. SHANKARANAND): (a) and (b) No Sir. The number of AIDS cases detected in Madras Medical College, Madras from 1980 to January, 1993 is 47.

(c) It has been reported that most of the patients detected were from urban and semi-urban areas and belonging to lower middle classes.

(d) The Government have chalked up a multi-sectoral National Programme to prevent and control HTV7 AIDS i_n the country with the assistance of World Bank and WHO. The pro gramme estimated to cost about Rs. 222.6 crores during the Eighth Five-Year Plan Period, has the following components:

—Strengthening the Management capacity for HTV control of the central as well as State level";

—Promoting Public awareness and community support;

—Improving Blood Safety and the rational use of blood;

—Controlling Sexually Transmitted Diseases; and

—Building surveillance and clinical management capacity;

Action on all these components has commenced during the current Financial year.

National Drag Authority

238. PROF. SAURIN BHATTA-CHARYA; Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Drug Policy of 1986 provides for a National Drug Authority and if so, whether it has since been formed;

(b) if not, the reasons therefor; and

(c) by when it is likely to be set up?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI B. SHANKARANAND): (a) to (c) Yes, Sir. It has not been considered feasible to set up such an Authority. It has, however, been decided Co strengthen and upgrade the Drugs Standard Control Organisations, tooth at the Central and State levels?

Appointment of a Qualified Director to the National Institute of Homoeopathy in Calcutta

239. PROF. SAURIN BHATTA-CHARYA: WiU the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE b_e pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the appointment of the Director of the National Institute of Homoeopalhy in Calcutta has been withheld to the detriment of teaching and Research; and

(b) what steps have been taken to appoint a properly qualified Director on a substantive basis so that the Institute may serve the pmpose for which it was set up?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI B. SHANKARANAND): (a) and (b)